

## **DRAFT Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee Minutes 12/8/15**

Present: Henry Lappen, (chair), Nonny Burack, Nancy Higgins, Roger Fega, Bob Erwin, Brady Yacek, Greg Keochakian, Melissa Perot and Alan Snow

Meeting called to order at 4.05 in the Town Room

1. **Minutes** of 11/10/15 were approved.

**2. Committee vacancy:** Greg Keochakian submitted application to join the committee. Committee agreed to accept him. Henry will find out what he needs to do.

**3. Treasurers Report:** Bob reported the account stands at \$8, 134.26 with no recent activity.

**4. Chair report:** Henry's nomination as Tree Warden of the Year was rejected to give other people the opportunity.

Pioneer Valley Co-Housing has given Henry approval to start a small town nursery on the property.

APSTC website has been updated and some photos put on Facebook.

### **5) Tree Warden Report:**

Alan needs synopsis of committee activities ASAP for Tree City USA application. Nonny will provide.

He recommended everyone on the committee should get Citizen Forester E Bulletin. Sign up at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/ma-urban-forestry-program-the-citizen-forester.html>

The Tree Planting program is wrapping up with 1200 trees in the ground. It is funded through April 2016.

Pine Street. The cut for the bus stop at Sandhill Rd is deeper than anticipated. The town is renegotiating with the landowner and will have to remove some more trees.

He reported that landowners do not generally want larger, useful trees preferring small and flowering species. This presents an important opportunity for education with articles in the paper etc. emphasizing the benefits of larger trees in carbon sequestration to ameliorate global climate change, shade and wildlife habitat. He emphasized that this message needs to get out.

Tree hearings for Triangle St are being scheduled.

36-38 S. East St has permission to cut down the trees but does not have final approval on the reconfiguration of the parking lot. Nonny attended PB meeting and informed them of APSTC vote (4 to 1 with 1 abstention not to oppose removal). Alan confirmed that a written objection to tree removal from an individual, (not a committee vote against), automatically sends the request to the SB for a decision.

Alan showed pictures of a large fine Cherry Tree being moved from U Mass to Sweetser park.

**6) 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday plantings 2016:** Bob presented a list of 7 sites to which Henry added N Pleasant St in U mass and Chestnut Court. It was agreed that UMass would be scheduled in April, in order to allow Brady to encourage student participation in the planting, Rolling Green for May followed by Hallock St, Colonial Village and Chestnut Court. Bob will check with owner of Hawkins Meadow Apartments about using private property for suggested planting there. (Route 9 road works)

**7) Flyers and water bill insert and mailing:** Alan reported the water bill insert is going out. Henry will obtain letter approved by Alan, print up 20+ letters to Tree companies for Nonny to address and mail in 2016.

**8) TD Bank program:** Roger reported that the deadline for applications has been put back a couple of weeks and he is not ready to submit this year.

**9) Media and Outreach:** Per Alan's suggestion of outreach, we need to be writing more letters and articles about the benefits of trees. Brady will write a draft and bring to next meeting.

**10) Town Developments:** Greg, Bob, Melissa and Henry attended interviews for interim Town manager. No audience questions included.

**11) Town Ordinance drafting:** Mira was unable to get a draft to Henry. Nonny reported Rob Crowner's suggestion that "projected years of life" should be considered along with the trunk diameter in determining the value of a tree. Henry hoped to be able to run a draft by the Planning Board by January and will get a copy to Nonny who will bring it around town officials for comments.

**12) Other Business:** Greg reported tree girdling of newly planted trees at Crocker Farm. Alan acknowledged need for ongoing work performance training. Henry suggested we might find a public speaker on Tree

Care/Mulching. Alan offered to add a public pruning demonstration maybe at the Winter Market.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:20

**Next meeting Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 4:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Perot